

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 NAS-01 /095 W
-----161007Z 047819 /22

R 152144Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4337

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0931

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: TECH, TGEN, HA
SUBJECT: AN INTERNATIONAL PILOT SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT FOR HAITI:
A PROPOSED U.S. POLICY INITIATIVE

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 0898

1. AS OUTLINED REFTTEL, A SIGNIFICANT INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT CAN BRING MAJOR BENEFITS TO THIS RELATIVELY LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY, AND WE HAVE ASKED FOR NAS SUPPORT IN DEVISING APPROPRIATE PROJECT.

2. ABOVE AND BEYOND INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE WE NOW HAVE A HAITI A BROADER CHALLENGE -- TO ASSESS WHETHER, UNDER THE EXISTING STATE OF THE ART, THE U.S. SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN PROPOSING A PILOT SOLAR ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEM FOR HAITI AS A START ON A TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER EFFORT FOR ALL RLDCS.

3. THE RATIONALE FOR SUCH AN EFFORT CAN BE BRIEFLY STATED:

(A) HAITI, LIKE MOST RELATIVELY LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (RLDC), IS SHORT ON ENERGY SOURCES AND LONG ON SUNSHINE, HAS BEEN ITS PLANS FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION,
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EXPANDED TRADE, AND JOB CREATION UPSET BY THE QUADRUPLING OF OIL PRICES, AND HAS FOUND NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY.

(B) HAITI, AGAIN LIKE MANY RLDCS, FINDS THAT POPULATION GROWTH, HIGH ILLITERACY, FOOD SHORTAGES, REDUCED WATER SUPPLIES, AND RURAL/URBAN MIGRATION TEND

TO CANCEL OUT SUCH ECONOMIC GROWTH AS IS BEING ATTAINED THROUGH EXISTING FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS. EACH YEAR THE HOPE OF BREAKING OUT OF THE \$100-200 GNP PER CAPITA CATEGORY GROWS MORE REMOTE.

(C) IF, HOWEVER, HAITI'S ABUNDANT SOLAR ENERGY COULD BE TAPPED TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY UNDER A COHERENT NATIONAL OR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, THIS GLOOMY PROSPECT COULD BE RADICALLY TRANSFORMED. ONE OR MORE SOLAR ELECTRICITY GENERATORS IN THE 25-50 MW RANGE, OR PERHAPS A NETWORK OF 2-MW GENERATORS DEVELOPED AND OPERATED BY AN INTERNATIONAL DONOR CONSORTIUM, COULD PROVIDE THE MOMENTUM FOR AN ACCELERATING EFFECT ACROSS THE DEVELOPMENT SPECTRUM. TO CITE A FEW OBVIOUS EXAMPLES, THIS FACILITY COULD CONSERVE SCARCE FOREIGN EXCHANGE, PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF RURAL EDUCATION, ATTRACT ASSEMBLY-TYPE INDUSTRIES FROM OVERCROWDED PORT AU PRINCE TO THE PROVINCIAL CENTERS, AND POWER IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND DESALINIZATION PLANTS.

4. MOREOVER, A U.S. INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH A PILOT INTERNATIONALLY-FINANCED SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY WOULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FAR BEYOND HAITI ITSELF. THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN SOLVING THE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, MANAGERIAL, AND OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS FOR SUCH A PILOT PLANT WOULD BE RELEVANT IN MOST OF THE RLDCS, AND THE PROJECT COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIMILAR FACILITIES ELSEWHERE. SUCH AN INITIATIVE, COMBINED WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUR EVOLVING NORTH-SOUTH STRATEGY, CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT HELPING OUR LESS FAVORED NEIGHBORS IN THE WORLD, AND THAT WE ARE NOW READY TO PUT THE IMMENSE RESOURCES OF U.S. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO WORK IN SOLVING A CENTRAL, AND EVER MORE PRESSING, ENERGY PROBLEM THROUGH AN INNOVATIVE YET CONSUMMATELY PRACTICAL SOLUTION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION, COMMENTS, AND GUIDANCE.
ISHAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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